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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shoji KARASAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 1741

Serial No : 09/664,323

Examiner:

Filed : September 18, 2000

For : ELECTRODE PLATE UNIT FOR RECHARGEABLE BATTERY AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

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3.17.02

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 20, 2000, in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants bring the following information to the Examiner's attention:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a European Search Report from the European Patent Office dated February 7, 2002, with respect to counterpart Patent Application EP 00 30 8222, in which the European Patent Examiner cited the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 3,960,603, to MORIOKA et al., issued on June 1, 1976, was cited as an "X" category document (i.e., a document particularly relevant if taken alone) with respect

P19993.A05

to claim 1 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated column 4, lines 31-65, column 4, lines 16-20, and claims 1-5 as being relevant.

Japanese Patent Publication No. 60-007058, to SHINKOBE DENKI KK, which was published on January 14, 1985, together with an English language Abstract, was cited as a "Y" category document (*i.e.*, a document partially relevant if combined with another document of the same category) with respect to claims 1 and 2 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated the Abstract as being relevant.

U.S. Patent No. 3,650,842, to BOUGARAN, issued on March 21, 1972, was cited as a "Y" category document with respect to claims 1 and 2 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated column 3, line 26 through column 4, line 12, and claims 1-3 as being relevant.

Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-185724, to TOYOTA AUTOM LOOM WORKS LTD., which was published on July 9, 1999, together with an English language Abstract, was cited as an "A" category document (*i.e.*, a document containing technological background) with respect to claims 1-5 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated the Abstract as being relevant.

U.S. Patent No. 5,415,954, to GAUTHIER et al., issued on May 16, 1995, was cited as an "A" category document with respect to claims 1-5 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated column 6, lines 1-16 as being relevant.

P19993.A05

U.S. Patent No. 4,138,533, to STEIG, issued on February 6, 1979, was cited as an "A" category document with respect to claims 1 and 4 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated column 3, lines 17-41, and claims 1-5 as being relevant.

Japanese Patent Publication No. 62-243245, to SHIN KOBE ELECTRIC MACH CO LTD., which was published on October 23, 1987, together with an English language Abstract, was cited as an "A" category document with respect to claim 1 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated the Abstract as being relevant.

Japanese Patent Publication No. 60-121668, to MATSUSHITA DENKI SANGYO KK, which was published on June 29, 1985, together with an English language Abstract, was cited as an "A" category document (i.e., a document containing technological background) with respect to claims 4 and 5 of the corresponding European application. The Examiner indicated the Abstract as being relevant.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), the undersigned certifies that each of the above documents contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to filing of this statement.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the documents and English Abstracts. Copies of the above-noted patent documents, together with a copy of a PTO-1449 Form listing these documents, are included for that

P19993.A05

purpose. A copy of the European Search Report is also enclosed. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form to confirm consideration of these documents and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next Official Action in the present application.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Shoji KARASAWA et al.

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March 8, 2002
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